

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1848.

THE "BUFFALO HUNT" CONFIRMED AND CONFESSED.

The New Orleans Bulletin confirms to the letter all the facts contained in our article of the 1st of this month, announcing the projected conquest from Mexico, by an illegal and criminal expedition of armed citizens from the United States, of several of her Northern Provinces; enabling us, however, to correct one error of the press, being that which represented Gen. Shields as being probably at St. Louis (Potosi) instead of at St. Louis (Missouri) making the necessary preliminary arrangements. The Bulletin of the 11th instant says:

"There is not the least doubt of the correctness of the statement in the following article, which we take from the National Intelligencer of the 1st August, as to the intention to separate the Mexican provinces on the Rio Grande from Mexico, and to establish a new republic. The information is equally correct that the plan for doing this is now organizing, or rather is organized, in the United States, and is to be effected by an armed force from this country, and that Gen. Shields is at the head of the movement. The whole plan is no secret here in New Orleans, but is freely spoken of, and parties openly avow that they are engaged in it, and we have now before us one of the printed circulars issued by the leaders, calling up on the parties to rendezvous for 'the grand Buffalo Hunt on the Rio Grande.'"

"It is also a fact, and we speak advisedly when we assert it, that the Government at Washington has not only been made acquainted with the plan, but was actually consulted upon it, and its aid and assistance asked. It, however, has declined to interfere, and will neither assist the undertaking nor take measures to check and arrest the movement. As regards the former, it is of course acting rightly; as regards the latter, it is clearly wrong."

"Not only do the laws of the United States prohibit its citizens from engaging in and fitting out hostile armaments from our ports or territory, against the territory of a friendly Power, but the laws of nations and the principles of honor and justice are equally opposed to such proceedings. Yet, in the face of the constitutional duty of the President, under the solemnity of his official oath, and with a full knowledge of the facts, all the arrangements for this warlike expedition are allowed to progress with impunity within our territory, and without the slightest effort on the part of our rulers to interfere or prevent it, not even to notify the parties that they could not be allowed to proceed in such an undertaking!"

"It is, as the Intelligencer justly observes, one of the residuary consequences of the Mexican-Texan war, and is to be added to the other evils which the policy of Mr. Polk and his party have entailed on the nation. We learn that there will be no lack of means and a probable over supply of physical force, for the object in question, and so soon as the heats of summer have passed, we shall see an armed force recruited and organized, within our limits, in a time of profound peace, assembled on the Rio Grande, with the openly avowed object of invading and dismembering the territory of a sister republic. No doubt they will divide out the property and lands of the country on the same plan as that adopted by the Normans in England. Those engaged in the enterprise pretend to justify their proceedings on the plea that the expedition is undertaken at the instance and request of the people of the country, who are desirous of separating from the Mexican Government and establishing an independent republic. The pretence is too shallow to be worthy of even a passing reply, as we venture to say that not one in a hundred, probably not one in a thousand, of the inhabitants within the territory will know that such a step is in contemplation, until they find their peaceful homes invaded by an army with banners."

"One thing, at any rate, is certain, that the American Government are now publicly, as it was previously privately notified of the fact, and if it allows this flagrant violation of and attack upon the Mexican rights to be consummated, it [the Executive] must bear the whole responsibility and the odium of the transaction in the face of the world."

The New Orleans Delta displays an openness and frankness which show to what extent the press partakes of the spirit of lawless adventure and violence which has been kindled in the souls of many of those who have for the last two years scented the carnage of the battle-field; whose christian and human natures have been so perverted by it as not to be able to distinguish between right and wrong; between the laws of war and the duties of peace, between bearing arms under their country's flag and carrying fire and sword among a friendly people, under pretences which take nothing from the stupendous criminality of the action. Thus confesses the Delta of the 12th instant, commenting upon the Bulletin's article of the 11th:

"Certain enterprising citizens, who have observed the vast resources of the region north of the Sierra Madre, and the hopelessness of the development of these resources by the present population, have, at the request of the people of that country, determined to emigrate thither with all the means and implements of peaceful culture and enterprise. It is the desire of the people of the country that they should do so. The Mexicans wish to make their land more valuable, and to give prosperity to their country. They know that it can only be saved by a liberal system of colonization—by American energy and enterprise. They desire to see introduced into their country the arts and institutions by which this great republic has been built up to its present height of glory and prosperity."

"It will require stronger arguments than those of the Bulletin and National Intelligencer to convince the intelligent people of this country that there is any thing wrong in this."

"The cant about the horrors of the Mexican-Texan war is behind the age. It springs from the old jealousy of the North against the South. The former, whilst professing a boundless prospect of expansion, wished to hem in and restrict the latter within certain metes and bounds. Unfortunately, cast his as devotes in the South as well as in the North. Through this medium, Northern jealousies and sectional rivalries are allowed to influence the views and opinions of our own people. We should resist and transcend upon any such influences."

"Discarding all abstractions, we ask the Bulletin if the introduction of American arts, principles, and institutions into Mexico would not greatly improve that country, increase its wealth, as well as that of the world at large, and enable us to secure peace on our Southern frontier? Is not this a desirable event, if it can be brought about by peaceful measures? Is it not desirable in the view of political economy, as well as of philanthropy, that a desert waste should be redeemed from sterility, and made to bring forth fruits for man's support and enjoyment? Is it not desirable that a people now groaning in ignorance and illness, should be turned from their ways, and made cultivators instead of cumberers of the earth?"

"These are certainly noble objects for human ambition and enterprise. It would admit of much argument whether such important and philanthropic purposes would be best promoted by the employment of a certain degree of force. But as no such result is contemplated—as the whole plan which has just been based on our contemporary with such very

'and bloody terror, is intended to be peaceable and political' in its aim and purpose, and not warlike, it is unnecessary to examine the question whether, in this case, the end would not justify means such as the Bulletin charges are to be used."

The following, from another quarter, is a beautiful commentary upon the pacific character of the proposed invasion of the country with which the United States has just sworn a solemn Treaty of Peace and Amity:

By an arrival at Galveson, from Tampico, the "News" of that place has received the following intelligence:

"The citizens of Tampico, we learn, are unanimously in favor of the new Republic of Sierra Madre. They have organized into a sort of military force—completely armed and equipped—for the defence of the city. They keep up a constant guard, and do not permit the Mexican soldiers, of whom there are about one hundred in the neighborhood, to appear in the streets after a certain hour. Captain Wells informs us that it was understood at Tampico that an offer had been made to Colonel De Russar to return to that place with one thousand Americans to aid in establishing and defending the new Republic, and it was believed that he would accept. A bounty of one hundred thousand dollars was to be paid them, besides their usual monthly pay as soldiers. The people of Tampico are represented as looking for their arrival with confidence. The force there already organized and equipped amounts to six companies—four of infantry and two of dragoons. Two of the infantry companies are composed of Americans and foreigners, one of Spaniards, and one of Mexicans."

THE PLOT THICKENS.

The following extract of a letter from a gentleman at St. Louis to a friend in Hartford, (Connecticut), and published in a paper of that city, throws a broad light on the criminal enterprise which is on foot (to the horror, we venture to say, of nine-tenths of all the well-disposed citizens of the United States) against the Rio Grande tier of Provinces of Mexico:

"St. Louis, Aug. 10.—I am waiting to see Gen. Shields, who ought to be here to-day. A great expedition is on foot to take all the Sierra Madre country. There are enrolled now upwards of five thousand men. About fifteen hundred are now at Minois, two hundred miles above Matamoros. Shields is to take command, if he does not play false; if so, Gen. Lane. You have no idea of the number of influential men this plan embraces in its ramifications. But 'nous verrons.'"

Our latest number of the New Orleans Bulletin gives us the following further light on the projected foray from the territory of the United States into that of Mexico:

"We acknowledge that up to this time there has probably been nothing done that would have justified the active interference of the Government, either through its law officers or its military force; but when the plan was brought to its knowledge, if it had raised its finger, and said that it would interfere to check and prevent it, the scheme, we have no doubt, would have been entirely abandoned, as at the time there were many difficulties in the way of executing it; and we think it just cause of most grave complaint, as well as of inquiry, that, instead of this course, the parties were informed that, though governmental aid would not be afforded, it would offer no opposition to the plan. That the scheme was mentioned to the Government, and that such was the reply, we presume will not be denied by authority."

"The avowed object of establishing a new republic is only the ostensible, and not the real one, which is further annexation, without regard to the means and mode which may be adopted to accomplish it. If these kind of proceedings are permitted to be practised with impunity, particularly upon a weak sister republic, our nation will justly become a byword and reproach throughout the world."

THE GOVERNOR OF OREGON.

The refusal by Gen. Shields of the appointment to the station of Governor of the Territory of Oregon, is, we are sorry to say, confirmed.

It is rumored, and we have no doubt is true, that the President has now offered the appointment to Gen. JOSEPH S. LANE, of Indiana, who also has served with credit in Mexico.

The Baltimore "Clipper," in stating the argument of the New Orleans Delta, in justification of the contemplated violation of every moral and political duty by marching an unlawfully armed force into the Mexican Territories, justly and honestly exclaims: "What a plea to be made by a Christian people for an act of robbery!" We trust that this sentiment will find an echo in every bosom not steeled by the habits of war against all considerations of justice or humanity.

What will the Editor of the "Clipper" say, when he learns, in addition to what is already known, that arms and ammunition have already gone, and are now going forward, from New Orleans to the Rio Grande, for the purpose of being employed in a hostile expedition against the Mexican territories? The very wagons and mules used in the transportation of Gen. Scott's Army have been some of them bought up for the service of the invading army! The force destined for the invasion by the route of the Rio Grande is already gathering, and is expected to assemble on the banks of that river in the course of next month. And yet the Administration, fully informed of all these facts, stands by with folded arms, idly looking on!

We want Gen. Taylor in the Presidency to keep the Peace, if it shall not be already too late when he comes. Among the candidates for the Presidency he is only man that can and will avert from our country the foul disgrace of dishonored faith—of Treaties broken almost before the seals upon them have grown cold.

COL. WASHINGTON'S EXPEDITION TO SANTA FE AND CALIFORNIA.—The public has already been informed that Col. WASHINGTON had been ordered by the Government to fit out a command from Matamoros for Santa Fe and California, to proceed through the interior of the country. These orders were obeyed; the horses and baggage train were put in readiness; and the command, consisting of Bragg's artillery and mounted force, actually on the march, or ready for it, when an order was received from Washington directing the abandonment of the expedition, and that Col. WASHINGTON should repair to Jefferson Barracks, with his forces. From thence it is understood that he is to proceed on the same expedition; but it is quite certain that he will not be able to accomplish the object before the winter sets in. The preparations for the expedition from Matamoros were of the most complete kind, and the journey could have been performed in a comparatively brief time. Under the new order, the whole of the outfit will probably be abandoned and sacrificed at Matamoros.—St. Louis Repub.

The French trade between New Jersey and the city of New York is now in full operation. Five steamboats are engaged in the business from one point only—the town of Washington.

THE BARNBURNERS.

The New York Evening Post, the leading organ of the party acknowledging this title, is nettled at the few remarks which we had occasion to make a week ago on the doings of the Buffalo Convention. Those remarks, we must admit, were not penned in a complimentary mood. When, however, the Post takes them exclusively to itself and its party, it does, by so doing, give them a particular application that was not intended. The point of them was supposed rather to affect the recalcitrant Whigs, the Tertium Quids, whose appearance in that Convention, and whose sanction of its proceedings, astonished us much more than did that of the Barnburners.

If the "Post" had merely disapproved our remarks upon the proceedings of the Convention, we should not have rejoined. Its dissatisfaction with them is not unnatural. But the "Post," without copying our remarks to let the Public judge for themselves, has misrepresented us to its readers in this: We had represented "the election by the People of all civil officers in the service of the Government" as a contemptible appeal to the demagogism of the country, as it is. The Post represents us as applying this remark to "the abolition of all unnecessary offices and salaries." This proposition, as a part of the Buffalo Platform, we do not regard as contemptible. It is merely claptrap.

But the "Post" follows up its misrepresentation with the following remarks:

"We know already that the Intelligencer, and those for whom it speaks, desire to retain the prerogative of bestowing offices of honor and emolument in the hands of the Executive at Washington. The more the Executive has to give his partisans, the more is to be gained by that herd who struggle for party ascendancy in order to possess the places and salaries he is empowered to bestow. This concentration of the appointing power at Washington also increases the importance and splendor of the seat of Government, and fills it with a continual throng of sycophants and clients."

That the Editor of the "Post" is not an attentive reader of the National Intelligencer we know from a late complaint of his that our editorial essays are too long for his reading. Yet to suppose that he is not aware of the groundlessness of the imputation upon that journal, and upon the Whig party, contained in the above extract, would be gross contempt of his intelligence. All politicians know at least, if the Editor of the Post does not, that the continual effort of this paper has been to rouse the public attention to the dangerous increase of Executive patronage and power, inducing alarming usurpations of legislative authority, and effectively perverting and breaking through the plainest injunctions of the Constitution.

It is to prevent the perpetuation of these abuses, which would certainly necessarily be the effect of the election of the Democratic Convention candidate for President, that the Whigs have determined to place in the Presidential chair Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR, who is pledged, in the event of his election, to scrupulously respect the Constitution and the Laws.

In resisting these abuses, the Intelligencer has had no aid from the Evening Post. That paper has indeed occasionally protested against the iniquities perpetrated by the means of Executive usurpation, as in the case of the annexation of Texas; but it has been content with the exertion of protesting, and then has tamely submitted to, and even in some instances countenanced and upheld, the detestable Mexican War, with all its train of atrocities. And, in the "Platform" of the Buffalo Convention, what constitutes the shame, no less of the seceders from both the Democratic and the Whig parties, is, that the whole series of perfidies, usurpations, and violences, which originated, consummated, and followed the Texas Annexation, and which constitute the volume of the Nation's History for the last four or five years, are as wholly passed by as if they had been transactions of an antediluvian age. This is the more scandalous in a Convention which has nominated Mr. VAN BUREN as its candidate for President, since, if there be any incident of his public life which will bear down his name with honor to posterity, it is (besides his refusal to be instrumental in bringing on a war with Great Britain) his opposition to the annexation of Texas; his yielding the former of which points would have secured his re-election to the Presidency at the election of 1840. And it was, beyond dispute, his course in the latter case, which caused him to be thrown overboard by the Baltimore Convention of 1844. That, in the face of such facts, the Buffalo Convention and the Evening Post should discard vital issues such as these, substituting for them such as popular election of postmasters, revenue officers, land officers, departmental clerks, &c., and that other of offering a premium out of the public treasure (the public lands) to idleness, inertness, or improvidence in individuals, is surely strange enough to justify the surprise which we have expressed at it.

That the Barnburners should have resorted to a separate organization, holding to their formerly professed principles, because of the contempt of their rights by the Baltimore Convention, so far from finding fault with, we consider as redounding to their credit. It is only when they cast off all their old principles, and come before the People clad in a suit of bran new ones, that we are moved with some part of that sentiment towards them which it is not possible to wholly suppress towards the recalcitrant and heedless Whigs, who, abandoning every conscientious issue save one, (and that one the mere creature of a casual excitement,) have turned their backs upon their own principles, deserted their friends, and like the Numidian horse of ancient story, gone over, bag and baggage, in the midst of battle, to the side of the enemy.

The inconsistency of the particular friends and adherents of Mr. VAN BUREN, in the Somersetshire, in a body, they have thrown on this occasion, in doing which the Evening Post has followed their example, is perhaps the most remarkable feature of this Buffalo affair.

For example: the gentleman who, at that Convention was most prominent, and apparently most influential, was the Hon. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER. He was Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, and he made and sustained the report of that committee. Among the Resolutions thus reported and adopted by the Convention were the following:

"Resolved, That we, the people here assembled, remembering the example of our fathers in the days of the first declaration of independence, putting our trust in God for the triumph of our cause, and invoking his guidance in our endeavors to advance it, do now plant ourselves upon the national platform of freedom, in opposition to the sectional platform of slavery."

"Resolved, That we inscribe on our banner 'free soil, free speech, free labor, and free men,' and under it will fight on, and fight ever, until a triumphant victory shall reward our exertions."

Now, it is but four years ago, that the same gentleman, Mr. BUTLER, officiated in the same capacity as Chairman of the Committee, &c. at the Democratic Convention of 1844, and procured the adoption of the following Resolution:

"That all efforts of the Abolitionists, or others, to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take ineffectual steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the People, and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our political institutions."

Comment upon such tergiversation would be superfluous.

PLATFORMS.

Washington Platform.—"An honest zeal and unremitting attention to the interests of the United States are all I dare promise."

Taylor Platform.—"It will ever be my pride and constant endeavor to serve the country with all the ability I possess."

Cass Platform.—"The noise and confusion which pervades this assembly will prevent my being heard on the important topics to which you have called my attention."

THE THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS.—The Western elections decided fourteen Congressional districts for the 31st Congress, viz: Illinois 5; Missouri 5; Iowa 2. The result is thirteen Democrats and one Whig, the same as in the present Congress. The new members are as follows:

ILLINOIS. Joseph H. Bissell, John Wentworth, John A. McClernand, Wm. A. Richardson, Thomas R. Young, Edward D. Baker, Thomas L. Harris.

MISSOURI. James B. Bowlin, James S. Green, William V. N. Bay, Willard P. Hall, John S. Phelps.

IOWA. William Thompson, Shepherd Leflier.

NORTH CAROLINA.

A letter to the Editors from Raleigh, North Carolina, says that the majority of Mr. MANLY, the Whig candidate for Governor of the State, is ascertained to be upwards of 1,000 votes, instead of 400, as at first reported, and that the Legislature will be Whig on joint ballot by two or four majorities.

"The result of this contest, (says our correspondent,) sufficiently decisive though it is, cannot be regarded as any indication of how the State will vote in November. North Carolina is as thoroughly Whig as she ever was. She will afford convincing proof of that fact by giving to Gen. Taylor over five thousand majority."

ARKANSAS ELECTIONS.

We have a few returns of the elections from the river counties of Arkansas. They are very favorable to the Whigs, but we can hardly hope for success in a State which has been so thoroughly Loco-foco as Arkansas. Gov. DREW, the present Executive of the State, has no opposition for re-election. In Phillips county MARSHALL and PRESTON, both Whigs, have been elected to the Legislature.

INDIANA.

The Whigs of the State of Indiana, now no longer distracted and divided by local questions, will apply their whole energies to give the State to the old Soldier Patriot, and they will succeed. They have the power, and they will use it. From this day let the most minute organization be entered into in every neighborhood. The whole people should be made acquainted with the life and character of General TAYLOR, and the position he occupies before the country. This can only be done by circulating the documents with which the Whig press is now teeming, and by addressing the people on all suitable occasions. Let every county appoint an active and energetic Central Committee. Let that committee appoint as many assistant electors in each county as it may deem expedient, whose duty it shall be to address and distribute documents among the people. Let every man who desires to wrest the Administration of our National Government from the hands of a corrupt dynasty, and to place it under the care of an honest old patriot, rouse to action. There is no time to be lost. A few months given to the country at this time will advance that country's true interest.

(Indiana State Journal.)

MICHIGAN.

Michigan is a Democratic State by several thousands majority. The Democracy, however, is divided between the Hunkers and the Barnburners. The indications from that State seem more and more favorable to the Taylor electoral ticket. The Whigs, with a few exceptions, do not seem disposed to accept the bribe tendered by the Van Buren Convention at Buffalo. The Detroit Advertiser says:

"We have read Marryatt's 'Peter Simple' and Dickens's 'Pickwick Papers,' but we never read any thing so 'simple' or 'pickwickian' as the idea of asking a Whig to vote for MARTIN VAN BUREN. The thing is an insult on its very face. You might as well ask a man of honor and self-respect to tell a falsehood."

"There never was a time when the Whig party have been called upon by every consideration of patriotism (so emphatically as at the present crisis) to stand by the Whig flag and push along the Whig column. VAN BUREN, CASS, HALE, and GERRITT SMITH are in the field as candidates against the hero of the Rio Grande. The friends of each will strive to swell their numbers with Whig votes, and unless the Whig party shall make exertions commensurate with those of its various enemies and with the occasion there may be danger that injury may be done to our cause."

WHIGS OF MICHIGAN, stand by the Whig flag. While the enemy is distracted by dissensions in its own ranks, let us present to the world, as in years past, a united front and a band of brothers. In the midst of the wrangling among the Cass men, the Hale men, the Smith men, and the Van Buren men, let us keep on in the advocacy of Whig principles. The doctrines of our creed are those of republican liberty; the patriotism of our leaders is beyond reproach. A united effort on our part and down-trodden Michigan will be redeemed."

The Louisville Democrat says, if Candidate Cass ever had two faces or two contrary opinions on any question, "they were both democratic!"

We are requested to publish the following as a caution to those publishers of newspapers that flag their own papers to be forwarded in the mails:

Extracts from a Letter of the Postmaster of Wheeling, (Va.) dated August 19, 1848.

"A portion of mail matter, and particularly papers, go to Columbus, Ohio, for distribution, which papers are addressed to offices this side of Columbus, and which papers should be bagged to this office (Wheeling) for distribution. These errors are committed principally by the publishers in the Eastern cities, who make up and label bags in which their papers are sent in the mail." "On a complaint from Cambridge to the National Intelligencer, I examined for my own satisfaction, and found the National Intelligencer addressed to Cambridge, Ohio, in the bag labelled 'Columbus.' Upon one occasion we examined a bag labelled 'Columbus' from Philadelphia, and found matter for several of the offices on the road to this and Columbus. The errors take place in every city."

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM JUDGE McLEAN.

The Cleveland True Democrat publishes the following letter from the Hon. JOHN McLEAN:

COLUMBUS, JULY 28, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have delayed an answer to your communication of the 11th instant that I might have time for mature reflection. This was due to you, to myself, to the object, and perhaps to the country. I have endeavored to consider the matter in all its aspects and consequences.

The great and exciting question of Slavery extension, in the judicial form it has assumed by the act of the Senate, as it bears upon my position on the bench; the use of my name in the present canvass, and the rejection of it by the Ohio delegates to the National Convention; the relation which Mr. VAN BUREN maintains to the public, have all been deliberately considered, and I am brought to the conclusion that I ought not to go before the Buffalo Convention as a candidate for the Presidency. I feel deeply and gratefully the honor you have done me by the expression of your kindness and confidence in connexion with that high office.

Resting upon the principles of the constitution, as they have been judicially settled, the free States, by moderation, vigilance, and firmness, may prevent the extension of slavery to the free territory lately annexed. Without the sanction of law, slavery can no more exist in a Territory than a man can breathe without air. Slaves are not property where they are not made so by the municipal law. The Legislature of a Territory can exercise no power which is not conferred on it by act of Congress.

With the highest respect, I am, gratefully, your obedient servant,

JOHN McLEAN.

TO JAMES A. BRIGGS and others.

FROM THE BOSTON ATLAS.

LOOK ON THIS PICTURE.—The Van Buren Vice President, in his speech at Buffalo, said: "We are obliged, under a necessity which we cannot resist, to denounce the ORGANIZATION of the old parties, as no longer worthy the confidence of a free people."

This same gentleman, about two months ago, got up a circular and signed it, calling a convention of Whigs at Worcester, the first sentence of which is as follows, speaking of Gen. Taylor:

"HE IS NOT A WHIG, when tried by the standard of our party organization!"

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NAVY.—The new work lately published by authority, and compiled from the records of the Navy Department, thus briefly sums up the "casualties" among naval officers since the United States have had a navy:

Died	994
Killed in action	52
Killed by accident	21
Drowned	67
Lost at sea	87
Murdered	6
Resigned	1,635
Dismissed	402
Castred under peace establishment	51
Discharged under peace establishment	277
Discharged	106
Last appearance or unknown	545
Deserted	3
In service	1,505
	5,758

GENERAL TAYLOR IN ALABAMA.

The Mobile Advertiser says: "It may not be unacceptable to the friends of General TAYLOR to know that a fair prospect of success exists even in Alabama. The Democracy of that State, so long attached to the dominant party, are beginning to rend their fetters, and to speak out in tones of independent feeling. We understand from gentlemen who have recently traversed the northern part of the State, where Loco-focoism has heretofore been overwhelmingly strong, that in some counties in which the Whigs have rarely mustered more than a corporal's guard, Taylor will obtain as large a vote as Cass. The position of Mr. Yancey and the Democratic malcontents who go with him tends directly to strengthen old Zack. A large number of Democrats will openly sustain the Whig candidate, and even a large number will not vote at all. Should South Alabama maintain any thing like the preponderance she exhibited in 1840, the chances of Gen. Taylor's carrying the State will be equal to those of his adversary. This is the substance of statements made to us by respectable authority. So note it be!"

GEN. TAYLOR IN FLORIDA.

The following extract from a report of operations in Florida, made by Gen. Thomas R. Jesup, then as now a supporter of the Loco-foco Administration, shows the estimate placed upon Gen. Taylor's military services and talents before he became the Whig candidate for the Presidency: "Gen. Taylor was directed to proceed from Tampa Bay, open a road in nearly an eastern direction into the heart of the country, establish a road at Peace creek, another on the Kissimmee, and attack the enemy in that quarter. He came up with the enemy on the 25th December, attacked them, and in one of the best fought actions known to our history, gained a complete victory, though with a great loss of officers and men."

THE LATE FIRE AT ALBANY.

In the Albany and New York papers we have full particulars of the late fire at Albany.

The number of houses destroyed is four hundred and thirty-nine, situated as follows:

Quay street, thirty-eight buildings, most of them three and four-story brick stores; Broadway, one hundred and thirty-nine stores and dwellings, including the Eagle Tavern and Townsend House, United States Hotel, Columbia Hotel, &c.; Church street, forty-four buildings; Diagonal street, two buildings; Union street, thirty-four houses; Hamilton street, twenty-four houses; Division street, fifteen houses; Hudson street, four houses; Elizabeth street, fifty-two houses; Denison street, two houses; Lydell street, thirty houses; Bleeker street, thirteen houses; Herkimer street, three houses; Dallas street, six houses; on the Pier, thirty-three buildings; making a total of 439 houses, besides the destruction in the basin of the steamboat, one schooner, eleven row boats, two floats, and from forty to sixty canal boats.

The entire loss is estimated at from two and a half to four millions of dollars. The Albany Journal of Friday thus speaks of the calamity:

"Most of the commercial portion of the city, with fifteen or twenty densely populated squares, is a black and smouldering ruin. From Herkimer street, where the fire broke out, to Columbia street, where it was arrested, in distance is more than half a mile! And all that work of destruction was accomplished in five hours! There could, therefore, have been little time to snatch property from the rapacious flames."

"And all this suffering and loss is much cause for gratitude. When the conflagration was at its height—when more than half the city was threatened, and when no human arm could save, a kind Providence interposed! The wind suddenly changed from south to northwest, and this change brought with it abundant and continued rain. Fires that had extended to several buildings in the vicinity of the burnt district were providentially extinguished by the rain."

"The great loss, superadded to the large sums swallowed up during the winter and spring, by kindred calamities, has impaired the fortunes of wealthy people, impoverished hundreds of the middle class, and utterly ruined hundreds of poor hard working families."

"The ruins cover an area of two hundred acres; every foot of which was densely covered with buildings. There were more than 400 buildings upon it than upon any other equal space in the city. Four-fifths of the buildings burnt were brick—most of them large and substantial, and many of them three or four stories in height."

"There have been several lives lost. Mr. Johnson, wife, daughter and grand-child, who lived next to the Columbian, were horribly burnt. The child and Mr. J. are dead; others are not expected to recover. We have rumors of other deaths, but cannot trace them."

The Boston Journal says that the Trustees of Amherst College have resolved to apply to the Legislature for leave to change the official name of the college to that of William College, as an expression of gratitude to their most liberal benefactor, Hon. SAMUEL WILLISTON, who has given to the institution some \$50,000. Mr. W., however, objects on the score of modesty.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CANVASS.

FROM THE ENCLIMORE (VA.) REPUBLICAN.

There are now four parties, each with its Presidential ticket, in the field. First comes the People's Party, the great Republican Whig Party, led on by TAYLOR and FILLMORE; then Old Hunkerdom, at the heels of Cass and Butler; then the Buffaloes, with Van Buren and Adams; then the "Liberty League and Land Reformers," whose candidates are Gerrit Smith, of New York, for the Presidency, and Rev. C. C. Foote, of Michigan, for the Vice Presidency. The Land Reformers go in for the white slaves as well as the black. As their principles may not be generally known, we subjoin the following extracts from the letter of acceptance of the Rev. Mr. Foote, with the pledge which that estimable cleric has given as to his course in the highly probably contingency of his election:

"I hold, then—

1. That men cannot hold property in the soil: 1st. Because, as a general rule, it has no value in its primitive or virgin state. The labor of clearing and subduing it quite equals its value when ready for service. The property, then, is in the improvements, and only there. 2d. The Creator of the world affords the land to be his, (Lev. xix. 23.) and its improvements, but he has denied the right to a claimant thereof. Not until men can present a bill of sale from the Almighty, then, can they claim property in the soil.

II. Human government is the agent, servant, or minister of the Divine government, (Romans xiii.) holding the unoccupied soil in trust for the benefit of the landless, born and unborn, and to prevent usurpations. This arrangement of trusteeship originates in human necessity, and is not a moral right, to occupy a portion of the earth's surface sufficient in quantity for his comfortable subsistence. This natural right has a three-fold foundation—oneness of origin, nature, and necessity.

These three propositions being true, it follows, of necessity—

1. That Government should guaranty to all who desire it a farm.

2. That this farm or homestead cannot be alienated to liquidate debt—it is sacred.

3. Government transcend their right and become usurpers when they make sale of unoccupied land to non-residents and land speculators.

In following propositions I cherish and hold to be equally as true and righteous as the preceding:

I. Having proclaimed liberty throughout all the land, to all the inhabitants thereof, (Lev. xix. 10.) Government should furnish the amplest means to the emancipated peasantry to emigrate to and settle upon such portions of unoccupied land as may best suit their preference. This should be done, not as a boon on the part of the Government, but as a sin offering for a protracted and highly criminal neglect of duty.

II. The many thousands of poor families and persons in our large cities and in other parts of the land, whose strength is hunger-bitten, (Job xviii. 12.) desirous of farms, should Government aid in removing to and settling upon those farms so long and so cruelly withheld. Nor should this be regarded as a charity, but as a remuneration in part of the governmental wrong of withholding from these poor their natural right to land on which to live, and move, and have their being.

III. All unmarried women over eighteen years old, so desiring, should Government furnish with a small plot of the richest and most easily cultivated land in its trust: so should they have an honorable, healthful, and more certain means of livelihood than the many thousands of unmarried females in our own factories, cities and large towns. The pastoral lives of Rebecca and Rachel, the agricultural lives of Ruth and the maidens of Boaz, are honorable and bright examples of such a mode of livelihood.

For the attainment of these most desirable ends it shall be mine to labor, by seeking the ascendancy of that party which will not only under the soil, but which will also possess the soil—also—that party which goes for all political righteousness, I close with the inquiry, Why should National Reformers be in favor of a free soil and not in favor of free men to occupy it? Yours, &c.